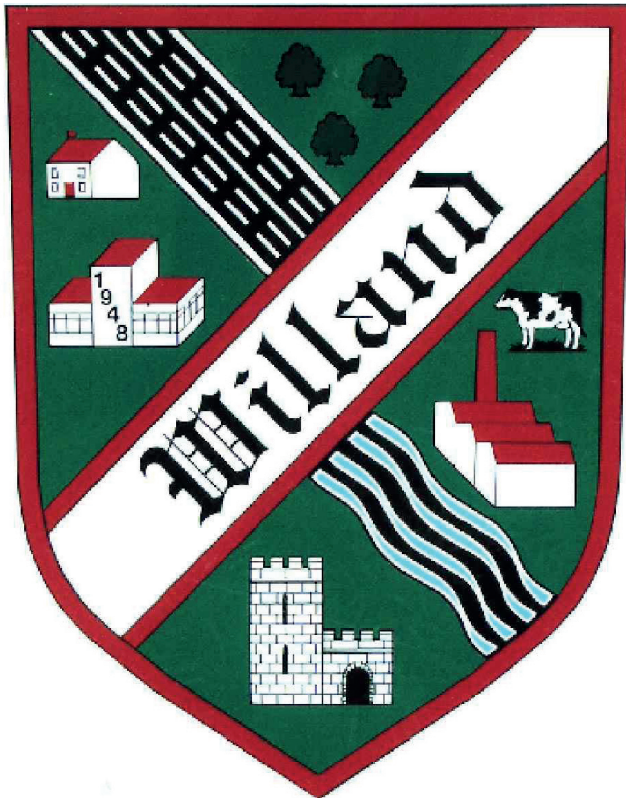


WILLAND MAGAZINE

April & May 2021



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Folk Dance Club	Marilyn Broom		01404 47200
Garden Club	Mrs Carol Allan	4 Orchard Way	33828
Tiny Tots	Karly Cousins	Cullompton	07730 895472
Tennis Club	Mrs R. Parish		weirmilldevon@gmail.com 820803
Tennis Courts (Public Hire)		clubspark.lta.org.uk/WillandTennisClub	
Village Hall Bookings	Frances Wilcox		bookings@willandvillagehall.org.uk
Village Hall Caretaker	Sam Fincher - caretaker@willandvillagehall.org.uk		07377 556946
Willand Rovers FC	Cath Dinner		07775 550436
Willand Art Group	Jenny Baker	Gables Road	822882
Willand Community Composting	Tony Mander		821174
Willand Cycle Club	Alan Smith - biggiggsy@hotmail.com		07545 273085
Willand History Group	James Morrison - jamorrison235@gmail.com		01884 250057
Willand Short Mat Bowling Club	John Crocker	12 Maple Close	35589
Willand Theatrical Society	Karen Goodchild		38122
Willand United Charities	Rev Simon Talbot		562570
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Culm Valley Methodist Church	Rev. Paul Booth		32679
Quakers	Pat Bell		840823
Roman Catholic Church	Canon Kristian Paver - St Boniface, Cullompton		252292
St. Mary's Church	Rev. Simon Talbot		01884 562570
St. Mary Parochial CC	Secretary Sandy Hancock		35165
Cullompton Community College			33364
Uffculme School			840458
Willand Pre-School			33711
Willand Primary School			820367
Parent/Teacher Assoc.	Mrs Jacobs	willandschoolptfa@gmail.com	

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES

Neil Parish	(M.P)	neil.parish.mp@parliament.uk	0207 219 7172
Ray Radford	(Devon County Council)	ray.radford@devon.gov.uk	820000
Richard Chesterton	(MD Dist Councillor)	rchesterton@middevon.gov.uk	33480
Bob Evans	(MD Dist Councillor)	revans@middevon.gov.uk	849248
Barry Warren	(MD Dist Councillor)	bwarren@middevon.gov.uk	07971 808423
Parish Council	Parish Council Website	www.willand-pc.org.uk	
Keith Grantham	(Councillor)	keith.grantham@willand-pc.org.uk	840780
Stephen Little	(Councillor)	stephen.little@willand-pc.org.uk	07795821476
Paul Major	(Councillor)	paul.major@willand-pc.org.uk	
Lisa Mastrolacasa	(Councillor)	lisa.mastrolacasa@willand-pc.org.uk	
Richard Phare	(Councillor)	richard.phare@willand-pc.org.uk	821910
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Jason Scott	(Councillor)	jason.scott@willand-pc.org.uk	07818 045215
Bill Tobin	(Councillor)	bill.tobin@willand-pc.org.uk	821571
Barry Warren	(Council Chairman)	barry.warren@willand-pc.org.uk	07971 808423
Karen Whatley	(Councillor)	karen.whatley@willand-pc.org.uk	01884 822894
Frances Wilcox	(Councillor)	frances.wilcox@willand-pc.org.uk	
Kate Taylor	(Parish Clerk)	clerk@willand-pc.org.uk	07920 014407

MEDICAL

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College Surgery Partnership - General Enquiries	831300
Gables Road Pharmacy	32604
N.H.S. DIRECT	111
National Blood Service (Donors) Glenda Frost	820641
Out-of-Hours GP	111
Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital (24hr A & E)	01392 411611
Tiverton & District Hospital (24hr Casualty)	01884 235400
Willand Surgery	821878

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National Rail Enquiries	03457 484950
National Express Coach Services	0371 781 818
Traveline	0871 200 2233
Stagecoach Devon	01392 427711
Devon Bus (All bus timetables are displayed outside the Post Office)	01392 382800
Culm Voluntary Car Scheme	07546 525683

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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CRIMESTOPPERS	0800 555111
DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL	0345 1551015
ENVIRONMENT AGENCY (24 HOUR)	0800 807060
FIRE, POLICE, AMBULANCE, COASTGUARD	999 or 112
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Thursday	Willand Village Hall	11.05am - 12.05pm

LATEST POSTAL COLLECTIONS

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	4.00pm	11.00am

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MAGAZINE Gerri Taylor 01884 821528 Editor: willandparishmag@gmail.com

WILLAND WEBSITE

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Welcome to our spring issue a season to look forward and prepare for the summer months.

WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL CHAIR - COMMENT & REPORT

As I start writing this contribution to our Village Magazine the sun is shining, there are flowers out in the garden and we have a blackbird and wren nesting already. I have also been cheered up by reading entries on Facebook where people have been praising the welcome they have received as new residents to our community. These were followed by others who have been in the village for varying periods up to something like 20 years or more – all singing the praises of our community. As Chair of the Parish Council I know that all are not pleased all of the time and that is life and those of us who volunteer to be on the Council know what we are letting ourselves in for. We do our best to see to the 'administration' and the community is supported by volunteers who organise many things of interest for people to participate in if they wish. That is community. A belated but sincere thank you to RAYDA Plastics who made a generous donation to the cost of the Christmas lights.

Contractors have started to cut grass and tidy up around the village and John our litter picker continues to do his rounds. Some have raised issues about litter being blown around when recycling is put out for collection. That is not John's fault or even that of the bin men. We need to be careful when we put it out. Black boxes stand in the green boxes and that holds the cardboard in and then there are lids for the black boxes which sometimes need a brick or something placing on them to keep them in place if there is a wind. If you have lost your lid or need another box you only have to go on line to the MDDC site and one can be supplied. If you get a problem or have no internet you can always come to me for help.

On the subject of things on the street can I please make a plea to those that charm our area with horses and ponies – they are great to see particularly when children and young people are riding and looking after them – BUT – I have had my ear bent about some of the deposits they leave behind on pavements – they are a bit bigger than dog poo but not so dangerous but can make a mess. Better in the road if it has to be done. If they do it outside of my house I have a process – bucket, spade, roses.

Some Parish Councillors have been approached by worried residents as to information which is circulating concerning the theft of dogs. It is becoming a concern around the area but I am not aware of any actual thefts in Willand itself. Please take sensible precautions and have your dog chipped and/or tattooed. Do not leave the dog unattended in cars, tied up outside a shop or in your front gardens if you are not there. If the dog is kept in outside kennels then security lights or cameras are a sensible precaution as well as good locks and chains. If you are out walking the dog on your own be aware if you feel someone is following you.

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Have the dog firmly on a lead and if you have a mobile phone ring someone [or pretend you are] so that the person you suspect can see what you are doing and this may put them off. Person and vehicle descriptions are a must and if you can get a registration number or photograph all the better. Report any suspicious behaviour to the police even if nothing happens. The Police are becoming more aware and proactive in relation to these crimes. Remember – prevention is better than cure.

Many of our community are now getting their Covid-19 vaccinations – I will soon have my second one – but please let us all still follow the guidelines and keep our community safe. It only takes one selfish person to cause a problem for us all. Stay safe and enjoy living in our village. **Barry G J Warren Chair**

EXCELSIOR ATHLETIC DEVELOPMENT GROUP

After being forced to close for 3 months, we are, at the time of writing, looking forward to reopening.

We are holding a consultation with our members to find out what they want on our return: classes are still restricted indoors and numbers outdoors.

We shall be running a form of athletics/gymnastics/ return-to- fitness classes outdoors for juniors and adults alike. The classes will help those wishing to exercise in groups and learn new skills. This is an opportunity to start something new: beginners are always welcome.

We shall also be running some rugby and football specific speed and agility sessions for players of those sports who have missed their regular training.

Unfortunately, we won't be able to run weightlifting classes until May 17th. It is only then that we will be able to give Chris Fotheringham his trophy: he won the 'Graham Cooper Memorial' in December. Dom Allen came second and Yasmin Rashid came third. Well done to all our other lifters who took part.

We also ran a 'No Gym? No Problem' competition in December and January. Well done to Jakin, Henry, Becca, Alice, Josiah and Adanna for winning the prizes. Coach James and Jack managed to deliver skipping ropes to most of our members just before we were locked down. We hope that they made good use of them." **James Marshall**



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ST MARY'S CHURCH

The church building remains open every day from 9.30am to 4pm for anyone who would like to visit, whether it be for a time of quiet, private prayer or just to shelter from the rain! The seats and regularly touched surfaces are cleaned daily and hand sanitiser is available at the door.

St Mary's is also open for services each week at 10am. Face masks need to be worn, and we are not allowed to sing at the moment, but we are trying to keep everything else as normal as possible.

If you would prefer to join us for a service whilst you are at home we also have a Zoom service at 11am each week. This can be accessed on a computer, tablet, Mobile-phone or on a normal landline telephone. For those joining on the Zoom app you will need the Zoom Meeting ID: 844 4111 7745 & Passcode: 094000 We understand this is an unusual experience so if you would prefer to leave your camera off you are welcome to do so. A recording of this service is also put on the St Mary's Facebook page by 1pm each week, but can also be emailed to you if you would prefer.

April also sees us celebrating the Lord Jesus' death and resurrection. Easter is at the heart of the Christian faith as we remember how through Jesus' sacrifice we can have a personal relationship with God.

Obviously the way we can worship this year will be different to normal.

All Zoom services will be the same login: Meeting ID: 844 4111 7745 & Passcode: 094000

Monday 29th March, Tuesday 30th March, Wednesday 31st March

8pm Compline (Night Prayer) on Zoom

Maundy Thursday (1st April) 8pm Maundy Thursday Service on Zoom

Good Friday (2nd April) 11am 'Good Friday Explorers' Family Crafts on Zoom

2pm Meditations at the Cross on Zoom

Easter Sunday (4th April)

6:15am Sunrise Service in Blackborough Churchyard

8am Holy Communion (Prayer Book) at St Mary's Uffculme

10am Holy Communion at St Mary's Willand please book a seat in advance

11am Holy Communion at St Mary's Kentisbeare and St Mary's Uffculme

11am Zoom Service

3pm Holy Communion at St Stephen's Ashill

To book your Easter Day service seat in St Mary's Willand contact:

Sandy Hancock: 35165 sandy.1hancock@btinternet.com for more

information, any pastoral needs, or if you would like someone to pray with you

please contact: **Rev Simon Talbot (Rector)**

Tel: 562570 Email: simon@thetalbots.org.uk. Simon Talbot.

Lockdown after years of wanting to thoroughly clean my house but lacking the time, this week I discovered that wasn't the reason.

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WILLAND THEATRICAL SOCIETY (WITS) Review of Red Riding Hood

With no panto this year I thought you may like to see what the National Operatic and Dramatic Association thought of our efforts in 2019 **Sam Fincher**

First a thank you to WITS for the warm welcome given to my wife and me on our first visit to the company and I hope it won't be the last!

This production of Red Riding Hood written by Roy Preston was a refreshing slant on the traditional story and so made it that much more interesting.

As soon as the curtain opened the audience were treated to a projected back cloth that enhanced the set and complemented the staging of the pantomime.

The costumes were outstanding and helped get the various characters into their roles.

The Dame came on stage just a shade suddenly. Before you knew it, there she was in all her dazzling glory as the Grandma and right from the start, had the audience in the palm of her hand or should I say "his" a great performance played with enthusiasm and sang well too!

Red Riding Hood did well, also sang very well and played the role with tenderness and sensitivity looking every inch the part.

King Conkers who was eccentric and forgetful made the part very much his own, but at times, just went on a little too long on the forgetfulness theme. None the less was very endearing and had enviable energy. He was ably supported by his longsuffering and patient Herald.

As always in every pantomime you have a "goody". In this case, Fairy Primrose and all in rhyme too! Unfortunately, the wand was pointing more to the floor than being upright for a lot of the time, but when she got angry with the wolf she really came into her own. As for the Wolf, he looked every inch the sly villain, his costume was superb and a great speaking voice to match. A really good characterization.

Prince Harry looked good, sang very well indeed, connected well with the audience and complemented Red Riding Hood with some authentic exchanges.

The Squire commanded the stage as soon as she spoke! A terrific performance done with style and confidence. Great stage presence and timing. The scenes with the two stooges Meddle and Muddle were funny and well-timed. They were enthusiastic and had obviously put a lot of time and effort into their scenes together so that they bounced off each other really well "A Hole in my Bucket" was really funny and even though you knew what was coming with such a well-known number, they managed to put in several individual and different touches which held the attention of the audience.

The trees were such a great touch and not easy to pull off as it's difficult to show much individual characterisations in trees. But they did and did it well.

The animals looked good amongst the trees, providing the "ah" factor, always-good in a really local pantomime, along with some really talented young dancers.

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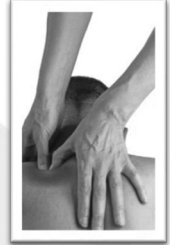
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These productions just don't happen all on their own a tremendous lot of time and effort goes into it, from stage hands, props, lighting, costumes, front of house and chaperones

I congratulate everyone concerned with the production especially the Director, Graham Sessions & the MD Roger Leaver who played so expertly.

Again, thanks to WITS for what was a most enjoyable evening, Willand is very fortunate to have this Society in their midst and such a great hall to perform in. Much better than a night in front of the T.V. **Graham Liverton. Regional Councillor NODA Southwest**

Certainly better than a night in front of the TV with all of the repeats currently on. Going forward with (fingers crossed) to the end completely of the restrictions in June, WITS committee are planning Zoom meetings at the end of this month to start to sort out when we can hold our AGM and to start planning for a Pantomime in February 2022. Sadly our much advertised show of Agatha Crusty and the Village Hall Murders has to go on the back burner until perhaps September 2022. The AGM date will probably fall between publications of the Willand Magazine so notice will be given on our Facebook page and or "What's on Willand" "Positive Willand" Facebook pages. WITs AGM is open to all and we welcome Willand residents to come along and see what we do, you never know you may decide to join us. Please keep safe and have a great Easter break.

Sam Fincher Treasurer.

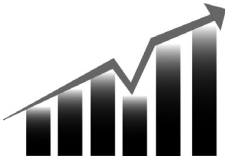
HAVE A CUPPA FOR HOSPICE CARE

Hospiscare is holding a Coffee Month this year, taking place in April. Due to the ongoing restrictions, we're not asking friends and family to get together but are hoping that people might still support Hospiscare in new inventive ways, such as :

- Hold a virtual Coffee Morning and invite friends and family for a cuppa, a slice and a natter over Zoom
- Delight friends and neighbours with doorstep deliveries
- Grab a take-way coffee with a friend for your daily exercise
- Donate the cost of your normal commute or office coffee
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For more information, please visit www.hospiscare.co.uk/support-our-work/fundraise/hospiscare-coffee-morning.

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WILLAND VILLAGE HALL

Hello everyone. I hope you are all keeping safe and well.

We were starting to get some bookings running successfully in December, which was great, then Lockdown 3 arrived. We have taken advantage of our lack of bookings to decorate the Club Room and we are getting quotes to refurbish the toilets in the entrance hall.

As it has been such a difficult time for all of us, including our hirers, we have decided to keep our rates the same as in 2020, instead of having the usual 5% rise. Hopefully, this will help some of the clubs recover.

Please visit our website, **www.willandvillagehall.org.uk**, to check the calendar for future bookings. The email for booking is: **bookings@willandvillagehall.org.uk**. **Carol Allan. Village Hall Treasurer.**

A THRIVING BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN DEVON LIBRARIES: Business & IP Centre Devon (BIPC)

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Protecting your idea is paramount when developing an invention or design. We can give you basic Intellectual Property (IP) information and signpost you to further help. Ensuring you have the right protection for your idea is easier than you think!

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For details of how to access our databases or any other enquiries, email **bipc@librariesunlimited.org.uk** **To browse our event listings and resources, take a look at our website: <https://bipc.librariesunlimited.org.uk/>**

REFUSE COLLECTIONS

Don't forget that there are lots of changes to the refuse collections during April and May due to the bank holidays. If you need reminding of what they are look on the Mid Devon website or cal 01884 2555255.

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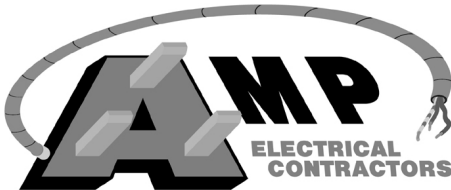
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WILLAND GARDEN CLUB

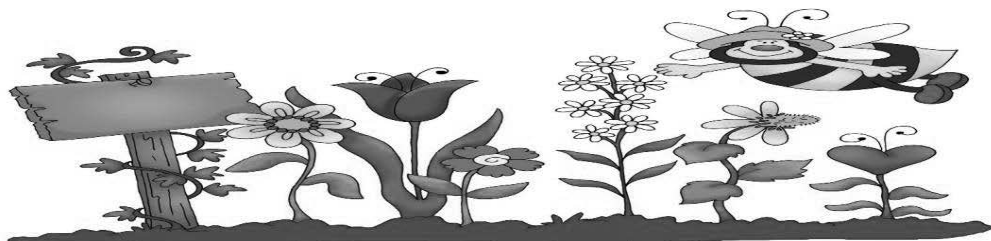
The Garden Club, like most other village organisations, has not met since March 2020. Without our coffee mornings and Plant Sale, our bank balance has gone down substantially.

We do not know when we will start our meetings again, but we hope it will not be too long. We are also looking forward to our annual Flower and Vegetable Show on 1st August. We hope to see you there. We are waiting to hear if we will be able to hold our Plant Sale at the end of May – it will depend on government regulations in place at that time.

We cannot yet arrange any speakers for the rest of the year, because of all the uncertainty around COVID, but several of our members have offered to give talks at our first few meetings.

When we start up again our monthly meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month and subscriptions are just £5 per person.

If you would like to know more about the Club, please do not hesitate to contact me. **Carol Allan**



WILLAND COMMUNITY COMPOSTING SCHEME (WCCS).

We Open Wednesday 31st MARCH 2021

Our opening hours – 10.00am – 12Noon.

SUNDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS.

With this announcement we would like thank you for your forbearance during the closure and cooperation when we were open.

Continuing with cooperation we will have Covid-19 Arrangements in place for which we ask that you cooperate when you visit the site.

During your visit there will be: -

COMPOST We have **Sieved** compost at £1.50/bag – and **Unsieved** at £1/wheelbarrow. If you require a wheelbarrow please ask.

BAGS. Just a reminder if you have any of our empty bags it would be great if you could bring them with you or, if we are closed please deposit by the gate. This would be much appreciated.

Well, that's it for now. Hopefully we will see at the site bringing some garden waste and/or buying some compost. **Tony Mander Mob. 07980472242**

Email: tmander931gmail.com

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POWER CUTS IN WILLAND

Our village is subject to sporadic power cuts without prior notice that can range from a few minute's outage to a few hours. The most recent outages that I was aware of were on: 11 February 2021 @ 01:03 & 11 February 2021 @ 01:35

There may have been others since that I am not aware of. I am sure that there are many members of our community that are inconvenienced by these unplanned electrical supply cuts both on an individual and business basis.

Regarding the power outages mentioned above, I contacted Western Power Distribution (WPD) who are our electricity distribution network operator for an explanation for the outages.

WPD advised that the fault was due to a broken overhead line on a pole in a field opposite their Primary substation. Some of our residences observed a 'flash' in the sky which would have been the breakdown of a connection to the High Voltage Over Head (OH) line. The fault is the sort that could be caused by a bird strike, although WPD did not find any conclusive evidence to confirm this was the cause.

I also, had responses from WPD regarding other queries that I raised with them:

Background as to why these sporadic power cuts occur?

Power cuts can happen due to various different reasons i.e. bird strikes, trees, third party activity, breakdown of network assets. WPD continually monitor their network by routine inspections of pole, helicopter flights of the OH network (i.e. power lines) looking for any potential future issues such as trees within the safe distance to OH cables. They also carry out a rolling program of network upgrade works including adding automation points to the network to reduce time taken to restore supplies to customers.

Why do these power cuts occur at different days / times?

It varies dependant on the cause of the incident, more often than not it is weather related affecting OH cables & joints. It can also, be caused by damage to the WPD network by a third party which can cause either an immediate network trip or one that causes a gradual breakdown of the network.

What is being carried out to resolve these issues and stopping them happening?

WPD have a routine inspection programme of their assets which involve a team of inspectors that will survey the OH network and the wooden poles, Substation inspectors also, visit all of WPD's Primary and secondary sites where they maintain the plant and equipment. WPD also have a helicopter unit based in Bristol that will routinely fly the network looking for anything untoward or for any trees or vegetation that is in close proximity to the OH network.

You might have seen the helicopters as they are easily recognisable in bright yellow with WPD stamped on the side. WPD also use helicopters to help locate faults rapidly.

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Locally in the Willand area WPD has very recently completed an upgrade of the Primary Substation, this upgrade cost in excess of £1,000,000 and has increased capacity of the network for the surrounding area. The upgrade works will also assist in a more reliable network.

Why can't advance notice be provided?

WPD will always advise customers of planned interruptions by letter. If there are customers with specific needs, WPD are made aware of this via their Priority Services Register (PSR). WPD will call these users on the PSR to check if they will be able to manage without power during the planned interruption. Unfortunately, due to the nature of a fault WPD are not always aware of it happening until the circuit trips.

WPD know this can be particularly worrying if a customer relies on electricity for medical equipment; if they are elderly, very ill; have extra communication, access / safety needs or disabled. WPD have special arrangements in place for vulnerable customers who depend on electricity and for whom power cuts may be particularly worrying. Sometimes power cuts can happen for reasons beyond their control.

This special arrangement is the Priority Services Register (PSR) and is free to join. It helps WPD to look after vulnerable customers whilst enabling WPD to tailor their services to support households who may need extra help.

Any member of our community who feels that they might benefit from being on the Priority Services Register (PSR) can join the register via the following means: **www.westernpower.co.uk/customers-and-community/priority-services**

Email: **wpdpriorityservices@westernpower.co.uk**. ☎ 0800 096 3080

If you are experiencing a fault and need to contact WPD just dial 105 and the system will be able to ascertain your location and whether you are calling from a landline or a mobile phone.

Western Power Distribution website. **www.westernpower.co.uk** also, provides very useful information on ongoing faults in real-time which you can also report a fault via the web site. **Paul Major. Willand Parish Council.**

STREET LIGHTING SWITCHING ON / OFF TIMINGS

Karen Whatley, Parish Councillor raised an issue to me that arises after a power cut has happened where some street lighting is not working in some areas of the village and the timings of the switching on / off of the lighting is affected.

Street Lighting is the responsibility of Devon County Council (DCC). I contacted DCC Street Lighting Team for an explanation as to why, when the village has the misfortune of having an electricity power cut / failure, the street lighting switches on / off in a different time / pattern to that before the power cut / failure. Devon County Councils – Street Lighting Teams response was as follows:

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It is unusual for a timing fault to naturally occur in whole sections of lights at the same time; if this occurs, this has most likely been caused by a power cut and should be temporary.

The street lighting in the village is mostly individually controlled by light sensitive cells on the top of the lights which switch the lighting on at dusk and off at dawn. In the case of part night lights, the type of cell fitted also switches off at approximately 12:30 GMT for 5 hours and then back on at approximately 05:30 until dawn. Following a power cut the cell resets, causing lighting to remain on all night or operate at incorrect times until the control cell re-learns the switching periods from natural light levels. This should happen within a week but can take up to ten days in some cases.

As the mornings get lighter the streetlights will switch later, in the summer months they may not switch on at all in the mornings due to higher daylight levels. (The day beginning, and end times are governed by the environment, not the clock.)

DDC Street Lighting Team are happy to investigate any on-going issues being experienced. If any lights are misbehaving, they will need to know which ones by being advised of the street lightings column number which is on the lighting column (pole) and any observed details of the fault so it can be passed to their maintenance team.

The best way for a member of our community to report lighting issues is via the following: Online: <https://www.lightsonindevon.co.uk/>



You enter your postcode and then choose the appropriate street lighting column via its associated street lighting column number on an interactive map. This allows you to check if a fault has already been reported and for you to report a fault. It is advisable for the person reporting the fault to leave their email address so that DCC Street

Lighting Team can get in touch if there are reasons for delays, or if they require further information.

Also, if there are on-going or intermittent problems this can be communicated directly with the person who reported the fault.

DCC Street Lighting Team have asked that as they are a small admin team, could any issues please, in the first instance be reported via the website.

Paul Major. Willand Parish Council. Mob: 07942 273939

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DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL

I have come to the end of another term for me, it runs out in May. I have enjoyed working for this community and hope I have been able to help in various ways, working with Parish Councils and so on, can't always please everybody, but I try to do what I can. I do thank everyone for your support.

I will be standing for another 4 year term.

As you know, DCC have announced its budget for 2021/22 and there has been unavoidable increases, the increase will be 4.99%, 3% for the adult services which is agreed by Government and 1.99% which is the maximum increase level set by Government. Over and above the figures stated below, there will be an additional £600k going into road maintenance. We will be putting £300k into Climate Change over the next two years, to help, together with District Councils bring about zero carbon by 2030. There looks to be light at the end of the tunnel on COVID, This tremendous effort to fight coronavirus, support Devon's communities and keep the county operating has cost the authority significantly.

The increased number of people eligible for help with Council Tax, coupled with more firms being forced to go out of business and leaving properties empty, is contributing to a financial shortfall for authorities at a time when spending demands are increasing.

The increase in Government funding for the authority is £3.7 million or 2.2%. The Government has also announced Devon's share of national Covid-19 funding for 2021/22 is £14.823 million. In total, our spending in 2021/22 is due to rise by 6.6%, an overall increase of just under £35.7 million from 2020/21. We will continue to do all we can to support all those affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. In the knowledge that we will come out of this pandemic with new and innovative ways of working to ensure we continue on our journey as a learning organisation

It was hard to imagine that a return to normal would happen quickly. The rapidly changing circumstances led to a review of the Targets. Some savings previously identified did not seem feasible and the other areas needed bolstering to increase the resilience of the authority. The detailed budget targets were set by Cabinet on 13th January which total £578.5 million. The total includes funding for budget pressures of £47.3 million that mainly relates to additional expenditure to allow for service growth to cater for demographic changes such as increased children and adult service users and unavoidable cost pressures. Savings and income initiatives of £11.6 million are required to set a balanced budget. The targets set for each service area have been subject to different pressures and influences. We have achieved this budget, without dipping into any reserves.

Just a few statistics you might be interested in of infrastructure we operate;

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Estimate Size of Network Km 12,978; Bridges No. 3,340 (23) 3,317. Structural retaining walls (>1.35m height) No. 1,749.

Structural retaining walls (>1.35m height) Km 125 1 126.

Street lights total No. 80,244. Street lights to have been converted to part night lighting No.53, 886. Rights of way Km 5,012 Length of road salted 2,664 km Illuminated road markings and signs 10,694 Gullies emptied No.165, 000

Total grass area cut m2 7.6 million. Surface dressed Km 0 443

Resurfacing / reconstruction Km 126.

Another interesting fact, we have 65 farms, it was 100 but some have been amalgamated and others made bigger, totalling 9,965 acres, we have not sold any farms to raise revenue like some County Councils have had to do, we are financially stable, and we have ample reserves .

North Devon Healthcare Trust is the Primary Provider for personal care in Bideford, Torrington, Barnstaple, Ilfracombe, Tiverton and Cullompton.

A decision has been made which means that Devon County Council will take back the day to day direct management of those care arrangements.

If you need me to do anything, just let me know. Once again, thank you all for your support for the last 4 years. **Ray Radford** Devon County Councillor

CULM VALLEY METHODIST CHURCH

Like many organisations we have had to find ways to continue to express who we are in different ways.

Since the beginning of the lockdowns we have been sending out a written service sheet by email, post or some delivered by hand. This has meant that we have maintained contact with some people who struggle to get to church services. We join together in service on Zoom, where Methodist churches across the area don't just join together but share in chat and conversation and sometimes show pictures that they have taken.

Whilst we have been allowed to be open for worship in the latest lockdown we decided to close whilst the infection rates were high.

Now that many people have had at least their first vaccination and the infection rates in our area are lower we are starting services again from Easter Day. Whilst restrictions remain in place, which mean that we cannot sing we will celebrate Easter and the coming of new life and pray that the community spirit that has been evident in hard times will continue.

Rev Paul Booth Methodist Minister.



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PAMELA PITSTOP January 2021

There's more to Pam than meets the eye, not many people know
An impetuous thrill seeker hides, who Pam won't often show.

She speeds up north on motorways and turns off, squealing tyres.
Adventurous spirit kicking in, igniting dangerous fires

Wild Chessington and then Thorpe Park and also Alton Towers
Were pitstops planned along her route – the detours added hours

She'd laugh on each exciting ride and shout unfettered glee,
Then smooth her hair, become demure –
“Pam Pitstop” none would see

Then one sad day the journeys stopped and Pam was stuck at home.
How could she cope in Lockdown 3? She
could no longer roam

But innovative Pammie knew just what
she had to do

She found a firm whose advert said,
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Then Hannah, in their office, took Pam's
call and did a scan

Of available technicians, booking in their top man, Stan.

When Stan arrived, good as their word, with all his flair and nouse,
Pam hardly could contain herself – A ride within her house

And though Pam's journeys are curtailed, her joy she cannot hide,
As up and down the stairs she goes
on The Pitstop Peril ride!

Clare Matanle



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Although it seems very early to be considering this as we are heading into the summer months the contract for the Christmas lights came to an end this year and having considered a number of options the Parish Council have agreed a different scheme for the next three years. This will be two different motifs, a Clef de Givre alternating with an Envolee de Flocons. The Council is very grateful to the continued support of local organisations and businesses and thank the Co-Op, Pencarrie, RAYDA Plastics, Victoria Windows and Willand Composting Group for their generous support in what was a very difficult 2020 for all. It is a shame that Willand does not have a centre to focus the lights in but driving home on a dark December evening it adds a little cheer seeing them down Silver Street, and it is great that the Street lighting team at Devon County Council support this happening. **Kate Taylor** Clerk to Willand Parish Council.

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WILLAND ROVERS

End of an era and end of the season.

Firstly, I must start with some sad news that one of long serving members has passed away after a lengthy battle against ill health. Mike 'Bacon' Mares arrived in Willand as a signalman for the stretch between Exeter and Tiverton junction, he soon became involved at the football club. He started as our cellarman who prided himself on keeping an immaculate cellar and very tasty beer.

He, alongside a very young Cath Cork ran the club canteen out of a caravan serving hot drinks and food. He served as Club Chairman for a few years. But in more recent times (probably the last 30 years) he was out in all weathers for all games firsts and reserve doing the gate. He once refused Steve Perryman entry for a match as Perryman had forgotten his Exeter City ID card. Bacon charged him to get in.

He also ran the famous Willand Rovers meat bingo which has gone from strength to strength. About 3 years ago Bacon stood down as our gateman due to ill health ending an association with the club spanning 6 decades. He has been replaced by Rich 'streaky' Barrs these days.

He will be sadly missed by all, especially the referees who received pearls of wisdom from the Silver Street end of the pitch.

You may recall that we were waiting on the results of a survey as to whether the season was to resume in September 2021 or start again. The majority of clubs voted to restart in September so once again the season has been declared null and void. We would like to thank all our supporters, sponsors, stewards for their support in another truncated season. We look forward to seeing you in the summer, we hope to plan some outdoor events for the community to enjoy so watch this space.

Whilst the club has been dormant we have decorated the whole club house and we would like to thank Bradfords for their generous donations. There is still more work to be done with additional covered areas to be created plus repairing posts etc that have succumb to the winter storms.

We have started a Willand Rovers lotto which is running at £5 per month and a chance of winning a share in 50% of the prize money. If you are interested please email wrfclotto@gmail.com for more information.



As the vaccine programme continues at a pace we hope to see you all in the summer, stay safe until then. **Dominic Clark.**



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WILLAND SCOUT GROUP

Willand scout group needs you. Over 18 years of age and thinking of volunteering in the local community, look no further. Willand beavers (6-8) and cubs (8-10 1/2) are desperate for help to maintain the running of their successful groups for the children of our village.

If you like arts and crafts, physical activities, have organisational skills, enjoy joining in and think the prospect of watching and helping youngsters gain confidence, self-esteem and new skills are you; and on top of that you are free on a Monday evening please get in touch.

This time of year the groups focus on outdoor activities, enjoying the great outdoors come rain or shine.

Covid-19 regulations have meant like others, our group has not been able to meet as we once did and zoom sessions have helped. But fingers crossed; as things improve we can get back to creating, learning from each other in the way we once did. If you would like any more information about the group please contact **James_bicknell@outlook.com** group scout leader. **Liesa Milligan**.

WILLAND TENNIS CLUB

Willand Tennis Club is excitingly preparing for the courts to reopen on the 29th March. This local and friendly club is always keen to welcome new members. Junior and Adult annual membership is available at a very competitive price. All 4 courts will be available to book to the public for 'Pay & Play' up to 48 hours before the session. You can cancel your booking up to 24 hours before and obtain a full refund. For more details and to book a court, please look at our website: **www.willandtennisclub.co.uk** Booking and payment is only available online.

Junior level coaching with our club coach, Nigel Little, will be restarting on Tuesday 20th April. Minimum age for these sessions is 3 years. Adult coaching also available either as a group or 1:1. Please contact Nigel on 07951140974 For more information. **Helen Richardson. Willand Tennis Club Secretary.**

MID DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

I'm not sure if it's getting older or that I'm looking forward to the lighter days and shorter nights that time seems to be flashing by at an incredible rate. The collective holding of breath continues as I write in the hope that promised easing of lock down is coming and the all-important figures are all going in the right direction and have been for a while now.

This will mean all of us looking to try and start returning to whatever we see as normal, although many things will not go back, online shopping is now the norm as will be £100 cash free card purchases.

Many local businesses did all they could to remain open and many smaller shops offered click and collect, local delivery and much more, one aspect of the new way of doing things I hope remains is the continued use of local shops. I'm



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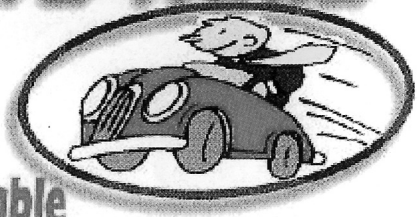
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not against the big supermarket as they play an important role yet shopping local has so many benefits.

Having attempted to assist with home schooling I'm pleased to see the schools opening up and children getting back into the classroom, not least to see their friends and start to enjoy the company of classmates I think many a grandparent will be happy to wave goodbye to the video classroom.

We are about to enter a period of Purdah as we have a few elections to catch up on, the Devon County Council, Police and Crime Commissioner and three local MDDC bye elections, it matters not your politics I would just encourage you to vote, we need a clear mandate on what the public want us to put at the top of the list of priorities.

Currently we have a number of debates looking at various aspects of local government that are being pushed by a minority, unfortunately this takes time and yes money and I believe the important stuff is being shelved.

We need to sort out the budgets and how we tackle the carbon promise moving forward and so need a clear steer from you on your priorities, where should we spend our time and your money?

MDDC get about 12p in the £1 from your council tax , the rest goes to other areas , so we don't have as much money as many believe , it's therefore vital that we as a collective understand your priorities.

So please let us know what you want to see your money spent on, the push for more time in debate on how we debate seems to me to be a wasted opportunity, we need to be getting on with stuff not sat round talking about it.

Please either write to any of your councillors directly or collectively, please don't let the minority dictate, it's time to tell us what you want and not let others tell you. Stay well, keep safe. **Bob Evans**

WILLAND HISTORY GROUP

Towards the end of last year, History Group members joined a Zoom talk on 'Mapping the Historic Character of the Culm', held under the auspices of the Connecting the Culm project (information at connectingtheculm.com), which includes mapping the landscape archaeology of the River Culm- for example, recording old mill leats or water meadows – from its headwaters in the Blackdown Hills to where it joins the River Exe at Stoke Canon. The talk inspired us to reflect on how Willand's own history has been influenced by local river systems – not only the Culm and Spratford Stream, but also a less well-known watercourse that runs across the parish and was known, glamorously, as the 'Willand Drains'.

The source of Willand Drains was a small body of water, now long gone, but located at what is now the junction onto the main road (B3181) at the bottom of the hill from the 'old' village. According to the 1839 Tithe Map this was called 'Merlin's Pond'. Was this just a cheeky name for an old murky pond, or could it

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be a tantalising hint at some long-forgotten local folklore? Either way, the Willand Drains then ran in a westerly direction across a field called Muirlands (or Murlands), where it was described as an ‘open sewer’ – according to the old meaning of ‘sewer’ as a ‘drainage channel’, not a conveyor of human waste. The field name Muirlands, and that of its neighbour Moorhayes, derive from the definition of ‘moor’ as a ‘low-lying marshy area’ – which would have flagged up how this was poor agricultural land, only really useful for rough grazing, and even then farmers needed to be wary of livestock diseases such as liver fluke, hosted by mud snails that thrive in poorly-drained, boggy places such as these.

When Dr Tracey built The Gables in the mid-1890s he purchased these and other fields around his new house to landscape into parkland, which included planting the woods that are now managed by the Woodland Trust. One source suggests that at this time Willand Drains were ‘piped’ under the fields, although map evidence appears to show it was channelled along a system of ditches. But this was not before Dr Tracey “... in an unusual feat of marksmanship, one with each barrel I was told, shot a brace of snipe in Muirlands ... probably feeding in this open drain, as they do. They were stuffed and exhibited [in] one of the many glass cases full of all sorts of birds in The Gables hall,” as described by his son, JB Tracey, years later. During the late-1980s this area was developed into the Meadow Park housing estate and the old watercourse presumably well and truly buried (beneath Sycamore Close) thanks to modern engineering.

From what is now Meadow Park the Willand Drains flowed in a south-west direction, following the hedgerow across the fields that are now earmarked for further housing development. Research is yet to reveal the extent of underground drainage in these fields, historic or otherwise, and it will be interesting to see if anything is revealed by the preliminary groundwork for this development. Any Victorian tile-pipes are likely to have silted up decades ago, and the fields certainly have a propensity to hold water after heavy rain. Along one of the hedges is a historic pond, now much diminished and choked by willow, but when I was growing up, during the 1980s, it was a proper farmland pond, and a great place to find long strings of toad spawn!

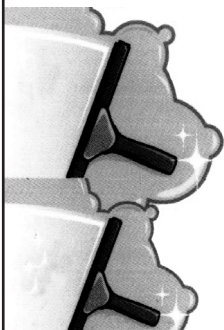
The Willand Drains watercourse now emerges in the corner of these fields, where it flows through a culvert under the M5 Motorway. It then runs along a hedge and ditch before being funnelled underneath the railway, emerging into the shallow valley at Dean Hill. It is here that the Willand Drains can be viewed today in its full glory as a flowing stream, albeit channelled along ditches to pass underneath Dean Hill Road (‘Round the World’). Once again, the old field names tell us what type of land this was: running alongside the stream below Dean Hill Farm is Honey Mead, possibly named because its meadow flowers were a bounty for bees, but more likely because the soil there could be sticky as honey. Here, the stream was once famed for its watercress, and willows still grow in the hedgerows, revealing its watery character. From there the stream flows

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along a hedgerow ditch parallel to the Gerston Farm driveway, beyond which it joins Spratford Stream, which in turn flows into the River Culm at Five Bridges. Research into Willand Drains and the landscape it passes through is still ongoing, so if you can add to what we know about this or any of Willand's other watercourses, we'd love to know.

James Morrison, 01884 250057 (jamorrison235@gmail.com)

NEWS FROM COLDHARBOUR MILL Take & Share our Questionnaire

In order for Coldharbour Mill to thrive and achieve a sustainable future, we need to diversify and find new ways of widening participation and generating income. We want to develop the Mill with the support and involvement of our local community, our supporters. Whether you are a long-standing supporter, or someone who has not yet visited, whether you are a neighbour, live many miles away, or an organisation, we value your opinion on what we should and shouldn't do to make Coldharbour Mill thrive in the long term. **Building Works**

Building works on site are progressing well (at least when the weather has been on our side). We are working to replace guttering and re-point the Grist Mill – with some additional internal decorating and security installation.

The path leading along the front of the Mill building has now been dug out and widened, and will soon be re-laid with a new self-binding surface. This is to make the entrance more accessible and allow for wheelchairs and buggies to cross paths with no problem. It will also allow for distanced outside queuing as required for social distancing when the Mill reopens to the public. We are also taking the opportunity to redo the pathway leading from the shop up to the chimney, which we hope will give a great first impression to our visitors entering this area.

Visitor Route Signage & Interpretation

We are currently working on additional signage for visitors to point out all of the outbuildings and additional interpretation for the outside areas so that visitors are made aware of the history of the whole site rather than just the collections inside the factory. The addition interpretation will highlight the buildings in the Mill yard.

We have also had the Economiser House re-floored which means this will be a new space for visitors to view when we re-open.

Peter Holdway-Bradley General Manager

To contact Coldharbour Mill:

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Due to an email glitch in the last Magazine the precept figures were distorted. Please see correct Parish Council precept figures below.

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INCOME				
Precept	57427	57427		
Bank Interest	35	20	80	
Magazine Advertising	5000	3042	5000	
Cemetery	2000	4660	3000	
Allotments	1562	2274	2215	
Projects		1372		
Ground Maintenance	4425	5025	4557	
TOTAL	70449	73820	14852	
EXPENDITURE				
Staff	21607	11996	20129	
Office administration	5728	3892	6015	290
Allotments	1562	1133	2215	
Cemetery	3000	1198	3090	
Magazine	6000	4327	6600	
All Ground management	13885	10758	14176	2580
Village projects	5920	4817	7139	1150
Donations to groups	250	250	350	
Play areas equipment	6000	2000	3000	600
Totals	63952	40371	62714	4620
Capital expenditure				
legal expenses	1000		1000	200
Community Event	1000			
CCTV replacements	500		500	
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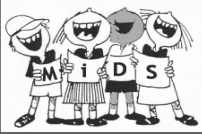


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The MiDS are now planning to start singing again, maybe before September, as we have been asked to sing at the Uffculme Show.

We know how Covid-19 is spread, including through speaking, singing and other physical activities. We hope that our village halls will consider installing ventilation systems extracting air directly to the outside, following COVID advice, to help make the halls more COVID secure. This would increase safety and make the halls less stuffy and more comfortable in the warmer weather, when it is often impractical to have open windows. This would be a good use of the £10, 000 Government grant provided to the halls to alleviate the effects of the pandemic. MiDS have made a proposal to Halberton Village Hall in this respect; we think it's a good idea to consider for the benefit all hall users.

If you'd like to sing for fun, please contact us NOW as we are recruiting for our restart; call for a chat or visit our Facebook page. It will be a good time to join to sing a little of everything, when other singers are new too. Please tell your friends, colleagues and neighbours, especially new ones. We have been meeting some of our new members at several virtual social evenings, including a recent *Raise a Glass Evening*.

When we start, we shall be including a wide range of songs including Rogers and Hamerstien, Andrew Lloyd Webber, ABBA Simon and Garfunkel Boy George, Carole King and the Beatles to name but a few. Along with other songs from shows and musicals.

We thank our loyal singers who come from across the district (and further) to enjoy singing with us. There are no auditions, no charge for trying us out and it's free for under 18s. We'll continue to meet at Halberton Village Hall, on Fridays as soon as it's safe. Contact us: singers@halberton.org or 01884 820081 (Terry) or 252910 (Bernard). **Terry Payne (Chairman)**



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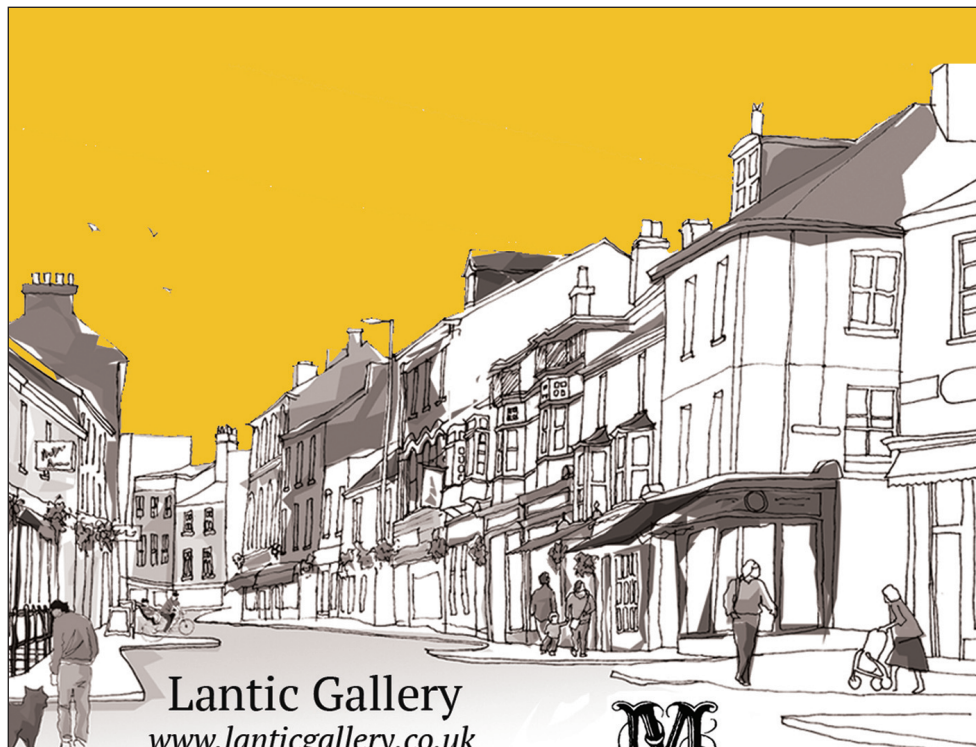
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